

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. D, M	Form no. 145
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wn Lexington

dress 1508 Mass. Ave.

me F. Foster Sherborne House

esent use residence

esent owner \_\_\_\_\_

escription:

te 1891

Source Tuttle List

yle Colonial Revival

Architect Builder, David Tuttle (1891)  
A.C. Washburn (1904 add.)

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features fieldstone foundation; first  
floor porch from center entrance around

E side of house; porch with

Altered piazza + rear addition Date 1904 (AC Washburn)

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 150'

Approximate distance of building from street

75'

6. Recorded by E. W. Reinhardt

Organization Lex. Hist. Com.

Date Sept. 13, 1975

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) F. Foster Sherburne

Original use \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Descrip. cont:-

Single Doric columns, connecting balustrade with urn shaped balusters; E front, 2 story bay surmounted by cornered roof, modillions at cornice; massing of bay projects forward beyond eave line; over front entrance full length window, door opening onto porch roof, defined by two pilasters with small Ionic capitals; two dormers over center with curved pediment, plaster wreath motif; smaller bay to right of entrance; two stories high, contained within eave line. NW side with first floor porch, columns similar to front, railing at 2nd floor level lighter turned balusters that these at first floor level. Dormer facing NW like two on front, with curved pediment & wreath motif. High hip roof, broad plain cornice board, heavy overhang, modillions. One chimney visible. Detail pictures only- no over all shot possible due trees. (Possible that windows in major front bay are curved. cf D-9 Sherburne)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

145

Property Name: 1508 Massachusetts Ave.

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built for F. Foster Sherburne by David Ainsworth Tuttle. The architect was perhaps Samuel D. Kelley. It was built in 1891 (see the Lexington Historical Society archives, Acc. #1204).

The Sherburne family first settled in Lexington in 1870 and was very prominent. Reuben Butterfield Sherburne was an officer and agent of the Boston and Concord Boating Company, the successor to the Middlesex Canal Associates.

Reuben Sherburne's three grandsons, Warren R., F. Foster, and Reuben B., were very successful businessmen and lived in three substantial Lexington homes, reflecting period architecture.

F. Foster Sherburne's father-in-law, Benjamin F. Tenney, built the house at 1536 Massachusetts Avenue (see form).

In the 1930s and 1940s and 1950s, this was the home of James J. Walsh, a wool broker.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
1508 MASS. AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D	145
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## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The home of F. Foster Sherburne was given extensive coverage by the *Lexington Minute-man* in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, giving unique insight into upper class life of the period.

A brief notice on April 4, 1903 notes the recent paint job (dark red with olive trimmings) while the construction of a large addition was even more newsworthy. As noted on May 21, 1904:

Quite an addition is being made to the residence of Mr. F. Foster Sherburne, on Mass. Avenue, to accommodate his growing family. The new part is in the form of an ell being built on the southwestern end of the main structure. This place has one of the finest locations on the avenue, set amid handsome grounds and, with its stable, makes an attractive group of buildings.

On August 13, 1904 the considerable alterations were described more fully:

For several months alterations and improvements have been in progress at the home of Mr. F. Foster Sherburne, located at the corner of Mass. avenue and Winthrop road, under the direction of A.C. Washburn, which will materially increase the size of the house and at the same time adding to its convenience and beauty. This increased room has been provided by an extension on the rear, also the building of a spacious and quite elaborately designed covered piazza on the west side of the house. What was formerly the kitchen has been thrown into the front room on the west side of the building, making it a large and nicely proportioned living room, with a quaintly designed open fire place at the end of the room. A new kitchen and butler's pantry, with all the conveniences and "handy" appliances of the modern household, have been added. Upstairs three new rooms have been finished off and a bath which will be a model of all that is most desirable in the sanitary as well as decorative department of these luxurious lavatories. The house is to be redecorated throughout with new paint and papers. The Bailey Bros. are in charge of the painting. The new piazza adds greatly to the exterior effect and with the addition gives the house an appearance of size that is quite imposing. The piazza has a stone work foundation, with gracefully grouped pillars to uphold the roof, which is ornamented with a handsome balustrade. It is expected to have the premises complete when the family returns from their vacation at Osterville in the early fall.

On July 31, 1909, the following appeared:

Mr. F. Foster Sherburne's house is fitted with canvas awnings, neatly adjusted on the west side of his residence, on the corner of the avenue and Winthrop road, the roofing of the bay window making the flooring for an open air sleeping apartment.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

*Lexington Minute-man*, April 4, 1903; May 21, 1904; August 13, 1904; July 31, 1909.

Supplement prepared by:  
Lisa Mausolf  
June 2009